

Robinson-Murray House; Interior Woodwork  
Partially Preserved in the "Delaware Log  
House," Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.  
Northeast side Limestone Road (State Rt. #7),  
approximately five miles north of intersection  
with Robert Kirkwood Highway (State Rt. #2)  
Milltown Vicinity (Mill Creek Hundred)  
New Castle County  
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-169

HABS  
DEL  
2-MILT O. V,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Washington Planning and Service Center  
1730 North Lynn Street  
Arlington, Virginia

Robinson-Murray House  
(MURRAY HOUSE)  
Milltown, New Castle County, Delaware.  
(BRANDYWINE SPRINGS VICINITY)

HABS  
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Owner: Edward T. Murray.

Date of Erection: Low wing with gambrel roof 1741. Stone building late 18th Century.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Two and one half.

Materials of Construction: Stone foundations, stone and log above, wood shingle roof.

Other Existing Records: Office of Recorder of Deeds and Register of Wills of New Castle County, Wilmington, Del. Deed in possession of present owner.

Additional Data: The low wing with gambrel roof is log construction above stone foundations. The stucco covering the logs is fairly recent. The date 1741 is on the chimney of the log building. No records give the exact date of erection of the stone addition, but from the character of its architectural details it belongs to the late 18th Century period. Some excellent panelling and woodwork in both portions of building.

Neston Blake  
District Officer

TW 2/28/57

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. DEL-169

ROBINSON-MURRAY HOUSE (interior woodwork  
partially preserved in the "DELAWARE LOG HOUSE,"  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.)

HABS  
DEL  
2-MILTO V.  
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Location: Northeast side Limestone Road (State Rt. #7),  
approximately five miles north of intersection  
with Robert Kirkwood Highway (State Rt. #2),  
Milltown Vicinity (Mill Creek Hundred),  
New Castle, Delaware.

Present Owner: Demolished June, 1958; first floor woodwork  
installed in the "Delaware Log House" in the  
"Every Day Life in America" Gallery,  
Department of History and Technology of the  
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

Statement  
of Significance: The Robinson-Murray House was a remarkably  
well-preserved early 18th century log house  
which contained much of its original woodwork  
and one original casement sash.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1702 Proprietary Warrants and Surveys, New Castle  
County, R<sup>2</sup>#10, dated February 24, 1702, shows  
a survey of 921 acres between Mill Creek and  
Calf Run, to a James Robinson.
- 1750 William Graham and his wife Priscilla Robinson  
Graham.
- 1753 James Mc aferson to William Johnson 71-1/2 acres.
- 1768 Johnson leased land from James Guthrie for  
"starch yard" (approximately two acres).
- 1781 William Johnson to Thomas Montgomery for  
71-1/2 acres with "Appurtances."
- 1783 Thomas Montgomery to Thomas Wallace.
- 1790 Wallace property seized for debts. Sold to  
Joseph Ball.

ROBINSON-MURRAY HOUSE (interior  
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HABS  
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2-MILTON  
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1790 Land divided. Line "beginning at a crack in a  
Stone Wall of a Stone Kitchen late of William  
Johnson now of John James." Line "passing  
through wall of said Kitchen and along easterly  
gable and wall of Stone Messuage."

----- At John James' death, property descended to his  
daughter, Wife of David Thompson Finney. Sold  
to Charles Rubincamp then to Henry Sheetz as  
executor of the will of Jacob Ulrich.

1803 Henry Sheetz, Esq. to James Ball for \$2400.00

1862 Sold at public auction to satisfy debts of  
James W. Ball. 73-1/2 acres. Purchased by  
S. D. Newlan and Ezme Ball administrators.

1885 Hannah Newlan (widow of Samuel and sister of  
James W. Ball). Given to Alonzo Newlan for sum  
of \$10.00 and "natural love and affection."

1905-10 Alonzo Newlan to Murray Family.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1740.

3. Architect: Possibly erected by John Robinson,  
"Carpenter."

4. Notes on alterations and additions: The substantial  
stone section of the Robinson-Murray House to the  
west of the log house is known to have been erected  
between 1768 and 1781. The deed of transferral  
(1781) records the sale of 71-1/2 acres with  
"appurtances", and states that Johnson "Has since  
erected and built a Stone Messuage and made other  
improvements."

#### B. Sources of Information:

Deeds in the possession of Mrs. Edna Murray Allen,  
Wilmington, Delaware.

New Castle County Deeds and Surveys.

Prepared by Robert L. Raley, AIA  
Route 3, Newark, Delaware  
February 1966